CD – End of yr.?

REST – Feb. 91

11/9/90
Fr: Keith
To: Kelly, David, Lori
Re: Thoughts on the Whole Earth Library after 11/8/90 meeting

The Library would have the traditional Whole Earth general focus:

- "individuals and their environments" (from David's report)
- ". . .the power of individuals to conduct their own education, find their own inspiration, shape their own environment, and share the adventure with whoever is interested. Tools that aid this process are sought and promoted by the Whole Earth Catalogs." (from JB's "Purpose" statment in the Ecolog)

I.

Most important goal: to make the library an even more powerful research tool for our editorial purposes. Refining this tool will allow for new and better publications which reach far beyond Marin County (WER, new Catalogs, electronic publications, on-line services, "publication on demand," etc.).

This goal of making the library more powerful will be accomplished by physically organizing and cataloging our collection, and in the process computerizing the listings of the collection and including our reviews of all the items in that database, for it is the value added by those reviews which makes this collection so valuable to the general public.

II.

Whole Earth has always had a special relationship with Marin County, our home for the last XXX years. We would like to use this reorganization of our collection as a starting point to enhance this relationship with Marin County.

The contents of our complete electronic collection would be made available to the branches of the Marin County library system through a combination of the Electronic Whole Earth Catalog and a regularly updated database of all the other Whole Earth publications. The details of how this would work will need to be worked out with M.C. Libraries. Marin based Broderbund Software and Apple Computer could also be approached to support this project. [Funding for the M.C. Library end of this is *not* included in our budget.]

This project with Marin Co. Libraries would then also be explored as a pilot project for similar services to other libraries.

III.

In the course of these first two phase we would also explore the possibilities of making our collection physically open to the public. This would almost certainly include access for researchers and journalists (which we already do to some degree), and might eventually include limited access to the general public if such a service seems like it would be valuable.

Additionally, if our plans for "on demand publishing" do develop, we could look at developing such a program first with the Marin Co. Library system and having a special fee structure for Marin Co.residents.